

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-05
TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 ACDA-12 AGRE-00
CEQ-01 CG-00 DLOS-09 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EPA-01
ERDA-05 FMC-01 H-01 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03
NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-07 PA-01 PM-05 PRS-01 SS-15
USIA-06 /153 W

-----029355 131847Z /45

P 131709Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3699

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 18534

USEEC

DEPT FOR OES/OFA AND EUR/RPE- DEPT PASS COMMERCE NMFS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEC, FG, EFIS

SUBJ : SHRIMPING OFF FRENCH GUIANA

REFS: (A) BRUSSELS 18329 (NOTAL); (B) BRUSSELS 17732;
(C) STATE 167197; (D) BRUSSELS 15876; (E) BRUSSELS 12614

1. MISSION OFFICER MET DECEMBER 12 WITH FRENCH PERMREP
FISHERY OFFICIAL LOTT TO DISCUSS STATUS OF PROPOSED EC
REGULATION GOVERNING THIRD COUNTRY SHRIMPING OFF FRENCH
GUIANA AFTER DECEMBER 31. LOTT SAID THAT, ALTHOUGH NEW
REGULATION HAS NOT YET BEEN DRAWN UP OR EVEN DISCUSSED
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IN DETAIL BY THE EC'S EXTERNAL FISHERY WORKING GROUP, HE
COULD INFORM US OF THE FRENCH RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EC
COUNCIL CONCERNING SPECIFIC MEASURES WHICH SHOULD GOVERN
SHRIMPING ACTIVITY.

2. ACCORDING TO LOTT, FRENCH SCIENTIFIC EXPERTS BASED
IN CAYENNE HAVE DETERMINED THAT THE TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH

FOR SHRIMP IN FRENCH GUIANA WATERS SHOULD BE 3,000 METRIC TONS (MT) DURING 1978. FRENCH RECOMMENDATIONS CALL FOR AN OVERALL LIMIT OF 70 THIRD COUNTRY VESSELS TO BE LICENSED BY THE COMMUNITY, WITH LICENSES TO BE ISSUED ON A "NAMED" BASIS ONLY, AS OPPOSED TO THE CURRENT SYSTEM UNDER WHICH ONE THIRD OF ALL LICENSES ARE ISSUED ON A "NUMBERED" BASIS. LOTT SAID THAT PREFERENCE IN LICENSE ISSUANCE WILL BE ACCORDED TO THOSE VESSELS LANDING THEIR CATCHES IN FRENCH GUIANA. OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE FRENCH INVOLVE TECHNICAL POINTS: A PROPOSED REQUIREMENT THAT LICENSE NUMBERS BE PAINTED ON VESSEL SUPERSTRUCTURES, AND A REQUEST THAT A 45 MM. MINIMUM NET MESH SIZE BE ESTABLISHED. LOTT POINTED OUT THAT, BECAUSE OF COUNCIL INDECISION ON AN INTERNAL FISHING REGIME FOR THE EC (REF A), ANY NEW REGULATION GOVERNING FRENCH GUIANA SHRIMPING COULD BE VALID ONLY THROUGH JANUARY 31. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT SUCH A REGULATION COULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE DECEMBER 19-20 FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL BUT CAUTIONED THAT, BECAUSE OF EXTREME DEMANDS ON EC FISHERY BUREAUCRACY, THIS DEADLINE COULD SLIP. (A BELGIAN PERMREP FISHERY OFFICIAL HAS EXPRESSED TO US HIS VIEW THAT, IF THE COUNCIL FAILS TO DECIDE ON A FRENCH GUIANA REGULATION BEFORE THE CHRISTMAS BREAK, THE VALIDITY OF THE REGULATION NOW IN FORCE WOULD BE AUTOMATICALLY EXTENDED THROUGH JANUARY 31 PURSUANT TO THE DECEMBER 5-7 FISHERY COUNCIL'S DECISION (PARA 6 REF A).
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3. MISSION OFFICER POINTED OUT TO LOTT THAT U.S. SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION INDICATED A MUCH HIGHER SUSTAINABLE YIELD THAN THE 3,000 MT FRENCH FIGURE AND THAT WE HAVE LONG BEEN CALLING FOR US-EC SCIENTIFIC CONSULTATIONS IN THIS REGARD. LOTT RESPONDED ALONG LINES OF INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE EC COMMISSION (REF B), INDICATING THAT THE EC PROPOSED TO BRAZIL ABOUT A MONTH AGO THAT A MEETING BE HELD IN CAYENNE, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, BRINGING TOGETHER REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL COASTAL STATES AND FISHING STATES INTERESTED IN THE BRAZIL-GUIANAS SHRIMP FISHERY TO DISCUSS "POLITICO-SCIENTIFIC" QUESTIONS CONNECTED WITH THE FISHERY, AND TO TRY TO REACH DECISION ON A REGIONAL ARRANGEMENT. LOTT EMPHASIZED THAT, UNTIL SUCH A REGIONAL ARRANGEMENT IS OBTAINED, THE EC SEES NO POINT IN NEGOTIATING BILATERAL AGREEMENTS WITH THIRD COUNTRIES SHRIMPING IN FRENCH GUIANA WATERS. HE INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT BRAZIL HAS NOT YET RESPONDED TO THE EC PROPOSAL AND CONFESSED THAT EC OFFICIALS HAVE NO IDEA WHAT LIES BEHIND BRAZILIAN RELUCTANCE TO ENGAGE IN TALKS. (HE POINTED OUT THAT BRAZIL ALSO IGNORED EC PROPOSAL OF A YEAR AGO CONCERNING POSSIBILITY OF BILATERAL AGREEMENT

BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES.) LOTT CONCLUDED BY ASKING IF USG HAS ANY IDEAS CONCERNING MEANS BY WHICH BRAZILIANS CAN BE PERSUADED TO COME TO CAYENNE AND SAID FRENCH AND EC WOULD APPRECIATE ANY LEVERAGE WE CAN APPLY. MISSION OFFICER SAID THAT USG HAS ITSELF CALLED FOR REGIONAL ARRANGEMENT (REF C) AND UNDERTOOK TO TRANSMIT LOTT'S REQUEST TO WASHINGTON.

4. LOTT CONCLUDED HIS REMARKS WITH A REFRAIN WE HAVE HEARD FREQUENTLY THESE PAST WEEKS FROM EC COMMISSION ND MEMBER STATE FISHERY OFFICIALS, EXPRESSING HIS PERSONAL VIEW THAT THE USG MADE "AN ERROR IN JUDGEMENT" WHEN IT REFUSED TO NEGOTIATE A FISHERY AGREEMENT WITH THE EC BASED UPON RECIPROCITY. THE RESULT, HE SAID, IS THAT THE CONFIDENTIAL

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AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00
DLOS-09 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 ERDA-05
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LAB-04 SIL-01 /153 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3700
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BRUSSELS 18534

U.S. IS NOW IN A WEAK POSITION VIS-A-VIS THE COMMUNITY, AS CONTRASTED WITH DEVELOPING CARIBBEAN STATES (TRINIDAD AND BARBADOS) WHO ARE ASKING FOR SHRIMP QUOTAS OFF FRENCH GUIANA AND TO WHOM THE EC IS OBLIGED TO GIVE FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION UNDER THE TERMS OF THE LOME CONVENTION. FINALLY, LOTT ASSERTED THAT THE REDUCTION OF THIRD COUNTRY QUOTAS IN FRENCH GUIANA ZONE IS A DIRECT RESULT OF EC FISHING LOSSES IN THIRD COUNTRY WATERS, INCLUDING SEVERE CUTBACKS IMPOSED BY USG ON EC FISHING ACTIVITY IN U.S. ZONE DURING 1978. MISSION OFFICER EMPHASIZED, IN RESPONSE, THAT SPECIAL EFFORT WAS MADE TO PROVIDE EXCEPTIONAL SQUID QUOTA FOR FRANCE, BUT LOTT ASSERTED THAT THIS CONCESSION, WHILE APPRECIATED, DOES NOT REALLY AMOUNT TO MUCH IN TERMS OF PROFITABILITY.

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5. MISSION COMMENT AND ACTION REQUESTED:

AS NOTED IN PREVIOUS MISSION REPORTING (REFS B, D, AND E, INTER ALIA), EC FISHERY OFFICIALS (PARTICULARLY COMMISSION AND FRENCH) HAVE CONSISTENTLY LINKED U.S. ACCESS TO FRENCH GUIANA SHRIMP WITH TREATMENT RECEIVED BY EC FISHERMEN UNDER U.S. FISHERY REGULATIONS, A CONNECTION MISSION HAS REFUTED AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY. HOWEVER, IT IS NOW CLEAR THAT, IF THE ABOVE FRENCH RECOMMENDATIONS ARE ACCEPTED IN TOTO BY THE COUNCIL (AND BRITISH PERM REP SOURCES TELL US THERE IS SUBSTANTIAL SYMPATHY AMONG EC MEMBER STATES FOR THE FRENCH APPROACH), THE RESULTING EXTREME CUTBACK OF U.S. SHRIMPING ACTIVITY OFF FRENCH GUIANA WOULD IN PART BE A DIRECT OUTCOME OF EC DISSATISFACTION WITH 1978 ALLOCATIONS IN U.S. ZONE. (THE OTHER REASON FOR A LIKELY CUTBACK WOULD PRESUMABLY BE THE EVIDENT, THOUGH POSSIBLY EXAGGERATED, FRENCH CONCERN OVER THE STATE OF THE STOCK). WHILE IT IS PERHAPS NOT POSSIBLE TO OVERCOME THAT DISSATISFACTION (SHORT OF GIVING THE EC NEW, INCREASED QUOTAS), WE BELIEVE IT IS IN OUR INTEREST TO BE AS RESPONSIVE AS POSSIBLE ON POINTS WHERE WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO DISPLAY SOME FLEXIBILITY. AT A MINIMUM, THE USG SHOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ANSWER EXPEDITIOUSLY QUESTIONS ON FISHING PUT TO US BY THE EC. WE THEREFORE URGE THAT DEPARTMENT PROVIDE QUICK RESPONSE TO ACTIONS REQUESTED PARA 4 REF (B), PARTICULARLY ON POINTS CONCERNING MESH NET SZES AND INFORMATION ON TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCHES. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE CONCERNING LOTT'S REQUEST (PARA 3, ABOVE) FOR U.S. VIEWS ON BRINGING BRAZIL TO THE EC'S PROPOSED CAYENNE MEETING. HINTON

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